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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,622	09/17/2003	Joshua T. Chard	32340-DIV	4008
7590	04/29/2005		EXAMINER	
Hovey Williams LLP Suite 400 2405 Grand Boulevard Kansas City, MO 64108			CHIN SHUE, ALVIN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3634	
DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/664,622	CHARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alvin C. Chin-Shue	3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,17-19 and 22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,17-19 and 22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1,2,17-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The preamble of the claims state that only the isolation mechanism is being claimed, while the limitation “the linkage being outside the boom”, as set forth in claim 1, and “means for producing a dielectric gap between the handle and boom”, as set forth in claim 22, appears to be claiming a combination of the mechanism and the boom, which renders the claims indefinite as it is unclear what are the bounds of the claimed invention. The limitation with respect to the boom, “positioned in proximity to a first end of the boom” as set forth in claims 17, when the boom is not a claimed element, renders the claims indefinite. The phrase “the structural combination”, as set forth in claim 1, lacks antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Prescott, Balogh or Gilmore. Prescott shows a handle 72, linkage 36,38 and a control assembly at 24. Balogh shows electrically non-conductive linkage 68.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,17-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balogh, Gilmore or Prescott in view of either Luscombe or Bauer. Balogh, Gilmore and Prescott all show the claimed mechanism with the exception of the non-conductive handle. Luscombe show a boom with a control handle with an electrically non-conductive covering 54. Bauer shows a handle made of plastic as an electrically non-conductive means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a covering, as taught by Luscombe, to the handle of either Balogh, Gilmore or Prescott or to modify their handles to comprise a plastic material, as taught by Bauer, to enable their handles to be electrically non-conductive.

Applicant's arguments filed 4/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant stated that the members 36 and 38 of Prescott are not linkages, the examiner disagrees as the elements 36 and 38 are clearly linkages, and applicant should note the definition of the word linkage. Applicant's arguments with respect applicant's disclosed invention but not the claimed invention e.g. the position of the control apparatus etc. are not persuasive as it is the claimed invention that is rejected and not the disclosure. With respect to the affidavit of Mr. Judd Clark, the statement that the non-metallic controller of PTE is structurally and functionally substantially similar to the invention claimed, does not provide a nexus between the structure of the PTE controller and the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin C. Chin-Shue whose telephone number is 571-272-6828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).



Alvin C. Chin-Shue
Examiner
Art Unit 3634

ACS